

Status of IDEA Data Integration Nationwide: Key Findings From the CIID Data Integration Assessment

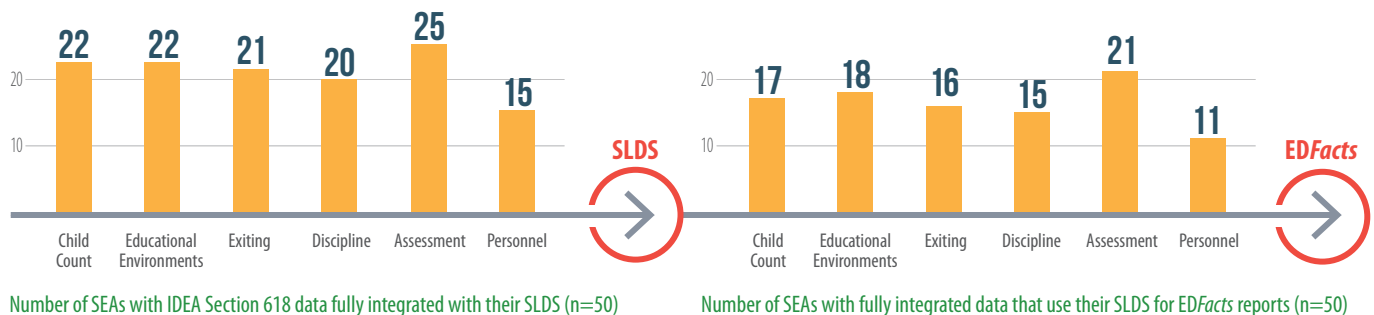
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The Center for Integration of IDEA Data (CIID) is an Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)-funded technical assistance (TA) center helping state education agencies (SEAs) to integrate their Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) data with statewide longitudinal data systems (SLDS). Data integration increases the value of education data to program administrators, policy makers, and others by permitting the seamless use of data from various programs and sectors. To understand the status of IDEA data integration and to inform technical assistance activities, CIID designed and administered a Data Integration Assessment (DIA) to 60 SEAs in spring 2015. The findings below reflect the status of IDEA Part B data integration in the 50 SEAs that completed the DIA.¹

Key Findings

Section 618 of the IDEA requires states to report a variety of data on children with disabilities to the Department of Education annually through *EDFacts*.² In the DIA, for each Section 618 data collection ([Child Count](#), [Educational Environments](#), [Assessment](#), [Discipline](#), [Exiting](#), and [Personnel](#)), SEAs reported the level of integration of the source data for their *EDFacts* reports.³ Less than 20 percent reported that all data needed for Section 618 data reporting are fully integrated with their SLDS. As shown in the figure below, personnel data were the least likely to be fully integrated (a third of responding SEAs), and assessment data were the most likely to be fully integrated (half of responding SEAs).

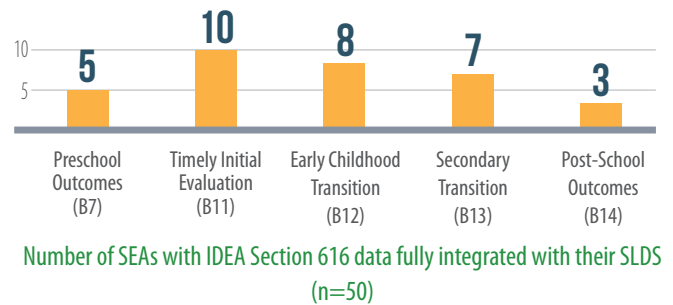
Few SEAs reported that all data needed for Section 618 data reporting are fully integrated with their SLDS. Among SEAs whose Section 618 data are fully integrated, many do not use their SLDS for *EDFacts* reports.



SEAs also reported how they create their Section 618 *EDFacts* reports.⁴ Regardless of the data collection (Child Count, Educational Environments, etc.), the majority of SEAs produce their *EDFacts* reports outside of their SLDS. Even among SEAs whose data are fully integrated, many do not use their SLDS for creating *EDFacts* reports. For example, 23 percent (5 of 22) of the SEAs with fully integrated child count data do not use their SLDS for creating the *EDFacts* report.

Under Section 616, IDEA also requires SEAs to report, through an Annual Performance Report (APR), on their performance under their state performance plan (SPP). OSEP prescribes 17 indicators of state performance. The DIA asked SEAs about

the level of integration of the data used for five of these indicators, all of which are based on student-level data not reported under Section 618 (i.e., preschool outcomes, timely initial evaluation, early childhood transition, secondary transition, and post-school outcomes.) Fewer than a third reported that the data for *any* of the five indicators are fully integrated with their SLDS.



Implications for CIID TA

DIA results are informing the direction of CIID TA to ensure SEAs receive relevant resources and supports. CIID TA experts are using DIA results to initiate discussions with SEAs on intensive TA and identify focus areas for universal and targeted TA. Needs identified through the DIA include securing resources, collecting data about students outside regular school districts, aligning special education and SLDS data dictionaries, establishing common unique identifiers, developing functional data governance, and ensuring privacy and data quality. The CIID webinar series has already begun, with two webinars conducted based on DIA results. Recordings of these presentations are available on CIID's website (<https://ciidta.grads360.org/#program>). Continuing in fall 2015 and throughout the life of the project, CIID will also organize SEA working groups around needs common to multiple SEAs.

CIID is developing a free tool, *Generate*, that will automate EDFacts and SPP/APR indicator reporting for SEAs. *Generate* will be a locally hosted application comprising a data store based on the Common Education Data Standards (CEDS) that will hold the data and scripts from which the EDFacts and indicator reports can be created. CIID anticipates that this tool will help to address the needs of SEAs that have integrated their Section 618 data with their SLDS, but do not use their SLDS to generate their EDFacts reports, or are looking to automate or streamline that reporting. The DIA results presented in this brief suggest a strong need for the *Generate* tool.

SEAs need support with:

- securing resources
- collecting data about students outside regular school districts
- aligning special education and SLDS data dictionaries
- establishing common unique identifiers
- developing functional data governance
- ensuring privacy
- ensuring data quality

Throughout this work, CIID's focus will be improving the reporting and use of IDEA data and, ultimately, educational outcomes for students with disabilities.

Endnotes

¹ This brief focuses on Part B data about school-age children with disabilities. The DIA had a response rate of 82 percent (50 of 60 SEAs). The 60 SEAs are in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, 4 [outlying areas](#), 3 [freely associated states](#), and the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

² EDFacts is the Department's centralized collection of aggregated data from state education agencies (SEAs) at the SEA, local education agency (LEA), and school levels. Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, 34 CFR Part 76 requires SEAs to use EDFacts to report their Section 618 data.

³ SEAs could choose from the following response options: (1) fully integrated, (2) partially integrated, (3) not integrated but plans or interest to integrate, and (4) not integrated and no plans to integrate.

⁴ SEAs could choose from the following response options: (1) directly generated from the SLDS, (2) data pulled from the SLDS but processed outside the SLDS, and (3) generated outside the SLDS. Options (1) and (2) counted as using the SLDS to generate EDFacts reports.



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